

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for production of a phenolic novolak, comprising:

a step of conducting a heterogeneous reaction of a phenol and an aldehyde in the presence of a phosphoric acid and an unreactive oxygen-containing organic solvent as a reaction cosolvent,

wherein the phosphoric acid is 25 parts by mass or more per 100 parts by mass of the phenol,

wherein the reaction cosolvent is 5 to ~~200~~ 400 parts by mass per 100 parts by mass of the phenol, and

the heterogeneous reaction takes place between two liquid phases in a cloudy state caused by the mixing of an organic phase having the phenol as the main ingredient and a water phase having the phosphoric acid, the aldehyde and a reaction cosolvent as the main ingredients.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The process for production of a phenolic novolak according to claim 1, wherein the phosphoric acid is 50 to 100 parts by mass per 100 parts by mass of the phenol.

Claims 3-5 (Canceled)

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The process for production of a phenolic novolak according to claim 1, wherein the reaction cosolvent is at least one element selected from the group consisting of an alcohol, a polyalcohol-based ether, a cyclic ether, a polyalcohol-based ester, a ketone and a sulfoxide.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The process for production of a phenolic novolak according to claim 1, wherein 0.40 to 1.0 mol of the aldehyde is reacted with 1 mol of the phenol.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The process for production of a phenolic novolak according to claim 1, wherein a surface active agent is further present in the step.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The process for production of a phenolic novolak according to claim 1, wherein the heterogeneous reaction is conducted under pressure of 0.03 to 1.50 MPa.